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FEB
GHOST RIDER
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DISTURBING THE PEACE

OUTSIDE THE BAR CODE...
SO I FOUND OUT DOOM AND THE GHOSTWORKS'VE BEEN MESSING WITH MY MIND SINCE DAY ONE--
--EXCEPT, CRACKING OPEN THOSE ENCRYPTED MEMORIES GLITCHES UP MY WHOLE SYSTEM.
IT WAS ONE OF THOSE DAYS THAT STARTS OUT BAD--
--AND HEADS SOUTH FROM THERE.

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A STAN LEE PRESENTATION

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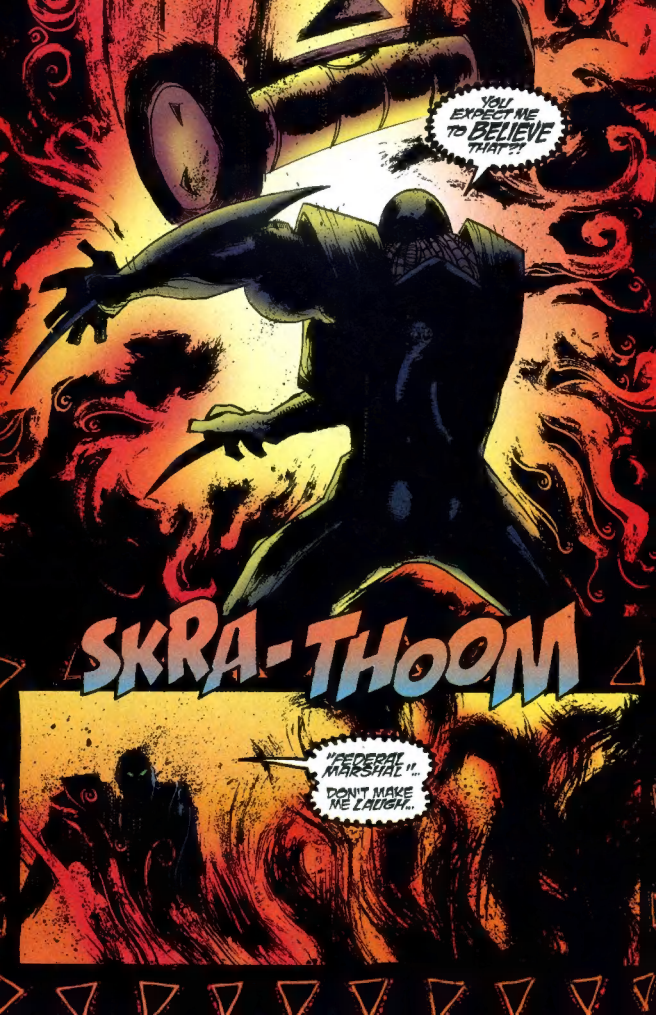
SKRAKKKAAM!
SOME JERKWEED CALLED RAGGI STUCK THE BRAIN OF A BITHEAD COP I GREASED A WHILE BACK INTO SOME KINDA WARBOT.
I'M COMIN' FOR YOU, GHOST RIDER!
-AND THIS ISN'T A GOOD DAY.
AH, GO WRECK YOURSELF.
DOWN-RAMP SCUM!
YOU BUS-BAG!
CALLS HIMSELF VENGEANCE.
DUNNO IF I COULD TAKE HIM ON A GOOD DAY.
BIG AS LITTLE CALCUTTA AND TWICE AS UGLY, RUNS ON ANTI-MATTER AND SHEER MEAN.

THIS CITY'S HAD ENOUGH OF LAWBREAKING GARBAGE LIKE YOU--
--AND I'M TAKING OUT THE TRASH!
WHAT'RE YOU, RIPPED?
I AM THE LAW AROUND HERE!
YOU BEEN OUTTA THE LOOP AWHILE, JACK. THESE DAYS, I'M THE FEDERAL MARSHAL AROUND HERE.
THAT'S CRAZY.


YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?!
SKRA-THOOM
"FEDERAL MARSHAL"... DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH..

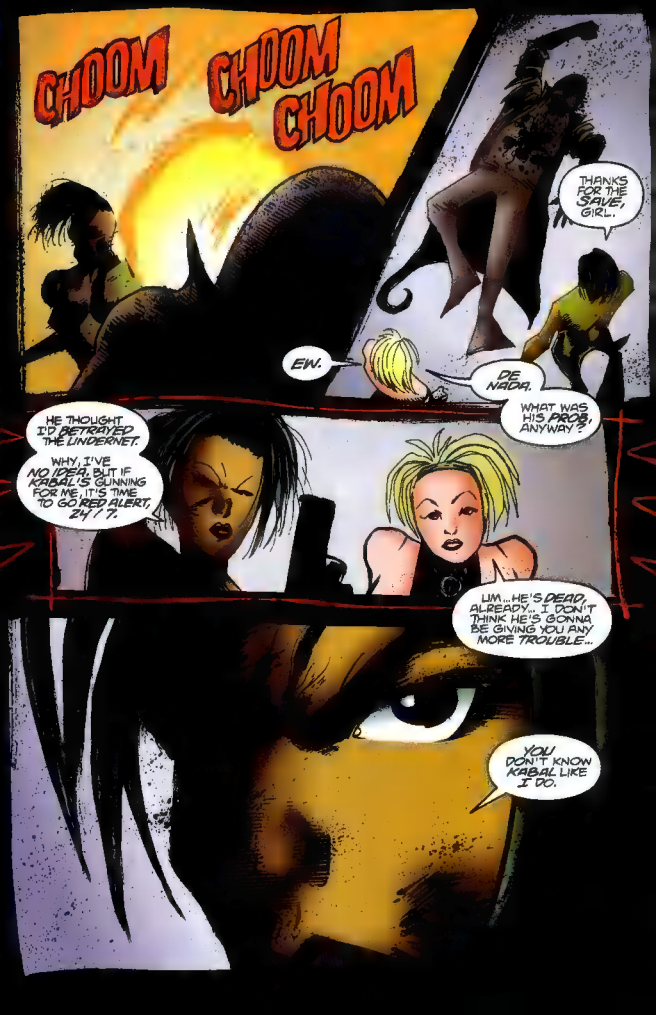
INSIDE THE BAR CODE...
I'VE OBVIOUSLY OVERESTIMATED YOU, JONES.
I'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU TOO SHREWD TO THINK YOU COULD BETRAY THE UNDERNET AND GET AWAY WITH IT--
--NOT TO MENTION TOO FAMILIAR WITH WEAPONS TO THINK THAT BAR WILL PROTECT YOU.
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
BKAM
BKAM
BKAM
ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE PARANOID, KABAL--
--BUT I NEVER FIGURED YOU FOR STUPID.

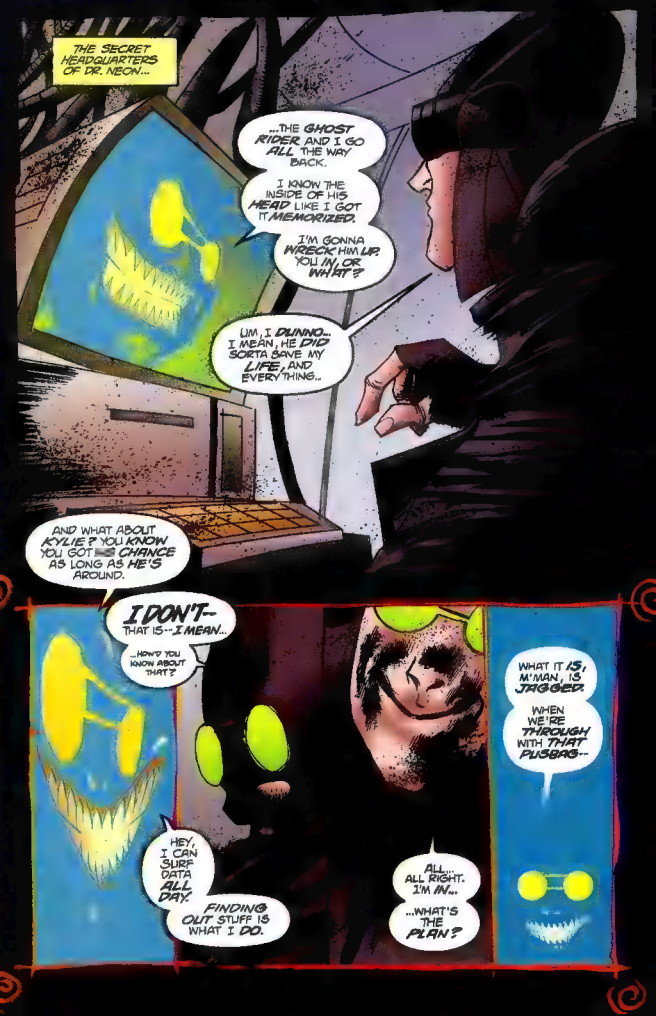
NOR SHOULD YOU HAVE.
THAK THAK THAK
OR DID YOU EXPECT I'D COME HERE WITHOUT ADEQUATE PREPARATION?
JUST FOR CURIOSITY'S SAKE, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW--
--WAS IT REALLY YOU THAT ASSASSINATED THE L-5 DELEGATION IN COSTA RICA BACK IN '81?
SLIK-CHAK
YOU'LL DIE WONDERING.

YO, RAT BITE!
GOT THREE WORDS FOR YOU.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.
KTHRURRRR
SKREEENCHEE

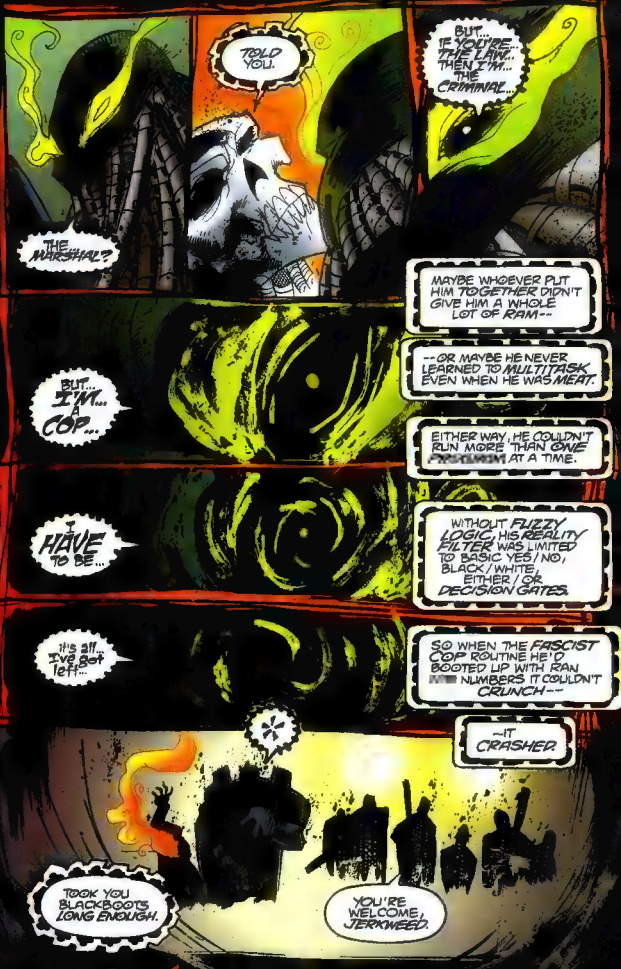
SON OF A GLITCH...
THIS STUFF WON'T CUT.
YOU! DON'T DESERVE TO LICK A REAL COP'S BOOTS.
STREET FILTH! LIKE YOU INSULTS ME BY EXISTING.
SUCK ANTI-MATTER, PUNK.
KRAKZOPT
ZZZRASHKZT
KNG SQUARK

ACTUALLY I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DYING, WONDERING OR OTHERWISE, JONES.
YOU, ON THE OTHER--
BLANG!
...
MRPH
HI.
THERE WAS, LIKE, A BUG ON THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD, AND--
HGHK
WHO?
DOWN, KYLIE!
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
HULIK!
WHUK!

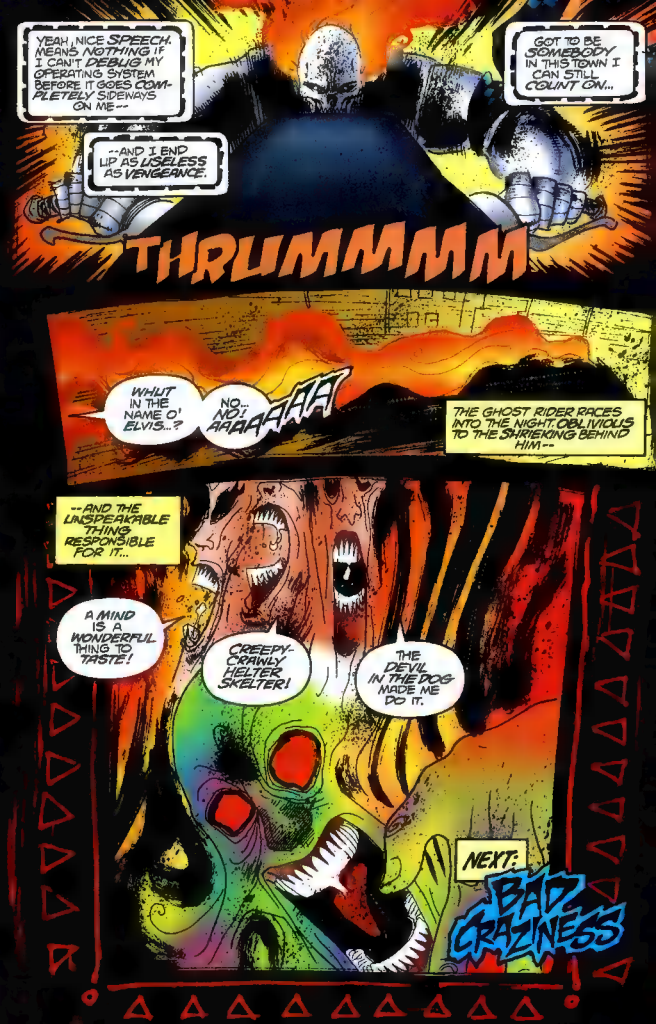

CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
THANKS FOR THE SAVE, GIRL.
EW.
DE NADA.
WHAT WAS HIS PROB, ANYWAY?
HE THOUGHT I'D BETRAYED THE LINDERNET.
WHY, I'VE NO IDEA. BUT IF KABAL'S GUNNING FOR ME, IT'S TIME TO GO RED ALERT, ZY!?.
LIM...HE'S DEAD, ALREADY... I DON'T THINK HE'S GONNA BE GIVING YOU ANY MORE TROUBLE..
YOU DON'T KNOW KABAL LIKE I DO.


THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF DR. NEON...
...THE GHOST RIDER AND I GO ALL THE WAY BACK.
I KNOW THE INSIDE OF HIS HEAD LIKE I GOT IT MEMORIZED.
I'M GONNA WRECK HIM UP. YOU IN, OR WHAT?
UM, I DUNNO... I MEAN, HE DID SORTA SAVE MY LIFE, AND EVERYTHING...
AND WHAT ABOUT KYLIE? YOU KNOW YOU GOT [redacted] CHANCE AS LONG AS HE'S AROUND.
I DON'T-- THAT IS--I MEAN...
...HOW'D YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
HEY, I CAN SURF DATA ALL DAY. FINDING OUT STUFF IS WHAT I DO.
ALL... ALL RIGHT. I'M IN...
...WHAT'S THE PLAN?
WHAT IT IS, M'MAN, IS JAGGED.
WHEN WE'RE THROUGH WITH THAT PUSBAG--

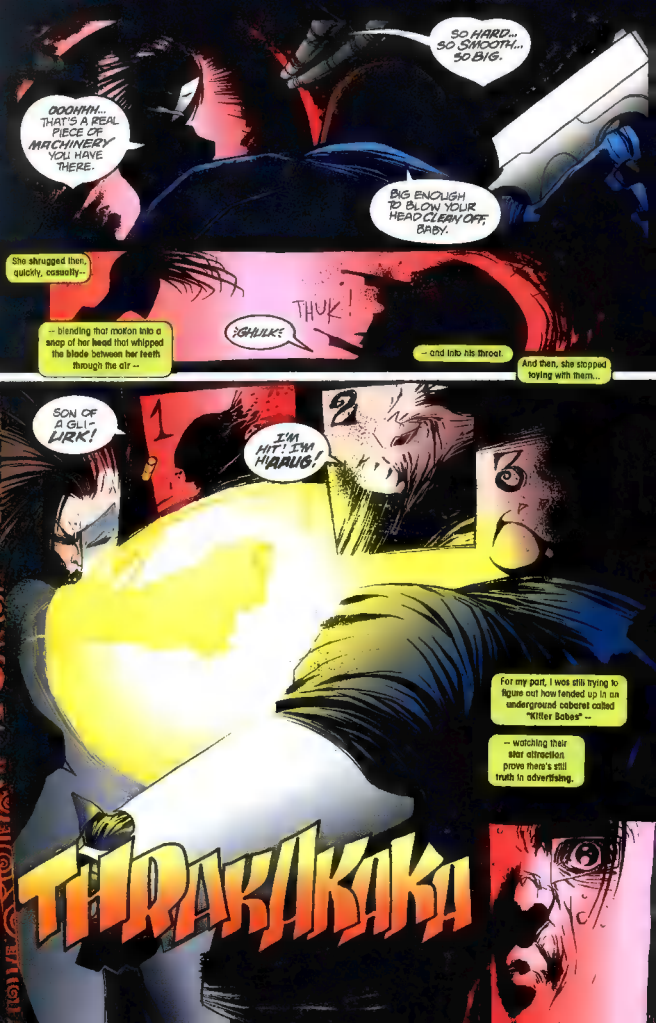
"--HE'S GONNA BURN."
ZZSSTT
SQUARSHK
LISTEN UP, PUNK.
WHEN YOU SEE THE GOOD LORD TELL HIM YOU'RE JUST THE FIRST. I'M GONNA--
"WARNING"
MATTER/ANTIMATTER ANNIHILATION IN PROGRESS
AUTOREPAIR NANOMER SUPPLY AT 37%
WILL EXCEED SELF-REPAIR CAPACITY IN 4.8 SECONDS
FREEZE!
DROP HIM AND PUT YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD!
PUT IT AWAY, DRIGHT TERR!
PUT THE MARSHAL DOWN!


TOLD YOU.
BUT, IF YOU'RE THE LAW... THEN I'M... THE CRIMINAL...
THE MARSHAL?
MAYBE WHOEVER PUT HIM TOGETHER DIDN'T GIVE HIM A WHOLE LOT OF RAM--
--OR MAYBE HE NEVER LEARNED TO MULTITASK, EVEN WHEN HE WAS MEAT.
BUT, I'M... A COP...
EITHER WAY, HE COULDN'T RUN MORE THAN ONE PROGRAM AT A TIME.
I HAVE TO BE...
WITHOUT FUZZY LOGIC, HIS REALITY FILTER WAS LIMITED TO BASIC YES/NO, BLACK/WHITE, EITHER/OR DECISION GATES.
IT'S ALL... I'VE GOT LEFT...
SO WHEN THE FASCIST COP ROUTINE HE'D BOOTED UP WITH RAN [redacted] NUMBERS IT COULDN'T CRUNCH--
--IT CRASHED.
TOOK YOU BLACKBOOTS LONG ENOUGH.
YOU'RE WELCOME, JERKWEED.

LATER...
TOTAL SHUTDOWN CONFIRMED.
TAKE 'ER UP!
Y'KNOW, THERE'S A LOT OF SHIELD PERSONNEL WHO'D BE HAPPIER IF WE'D LET YOU GO DOWN. AND I'M STARTING TO SEE WHY.
WHEN YOU FILE YOUR REPORT, DO US ALL A FAVOR AND DON'T TELL THEM WE SAVED YOUR--
I GOT YOUR REPORT RIGHT HERE, JACK! "THIS JOB SUCKS. I QUIT."
SEE THIS BADGE? SOLIDIGRAM. SHAPED FIELDS MAPPED WITH HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGERY. NOT REAL.
I'VE BEEN DRESSED IN LIES JUST LIKE THE REST OF THIS STINKING SOCIETY.
AND AS LONG AS YOU'RE WORKING FOR THE GREEDHEAD BIZ SUITS WHO RUN THINGS--
--SO'RE YOU!
SO DO YOURSELF A FAVOR--
--AND DON'T GET IN MY WAY.
I'M GOING BACK TO FIGHTING THE PUSBAGS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SICK EXCUSE FOR A WORLD, AND THAT MAKES YOU THE ENEMY.


YEAH, NICE SPEECH. MEANS NOTHING IF I CAN'T DEBUG MY OPERATING SYSTEM BEFORE IT GOES COMPLETELY SIDEWAYS ON ME--
--AND I END UP AS USELESS AS VENGEANCE.
GOT TO BE SOMEBODY IN THIS TOWN I CAN STILL COUNT ON...
THRUMMMM
WHUT IN THE NAME O' ELVIS..?
NO.. NO! AAAAAAA
THE GHOST RIDER RACES INTO THE NIGHT, OBLIVIOUS TO THE SHRIEKING BEHIND HIM--
--AND THE UNSPEAKABLE THINGS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT...
A MIND IS A WONDERFUL THING TO TASTE!
CREEPY-CRAWLY HELTER SKELTER!
THE DEVIL IN THE DOG MADE ME DO IT.
NEXT:
BAD GRAZINESS

START
She was as graceful as a prima ballerina in zero-g, dressed in nothing but weapons and a few cubic inches of mylar.
I'd just seen her kill three men in as many heartbeats.
All I could think of was a line from a movie that was old before I was born--
COME N' GET IT.
SHE KILLED TH' SARGE! WASTE HER!
WELL, BOYS? WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR?
Heartbreaker in
UNNATURAL ACTS
KAMINSKY-WOODS SHARPE-SCHEELE MALIBU-CAVALIERI CHASE
--"talk about Beauty and the Beast -- she's both."
ASHLEY WOOD '93

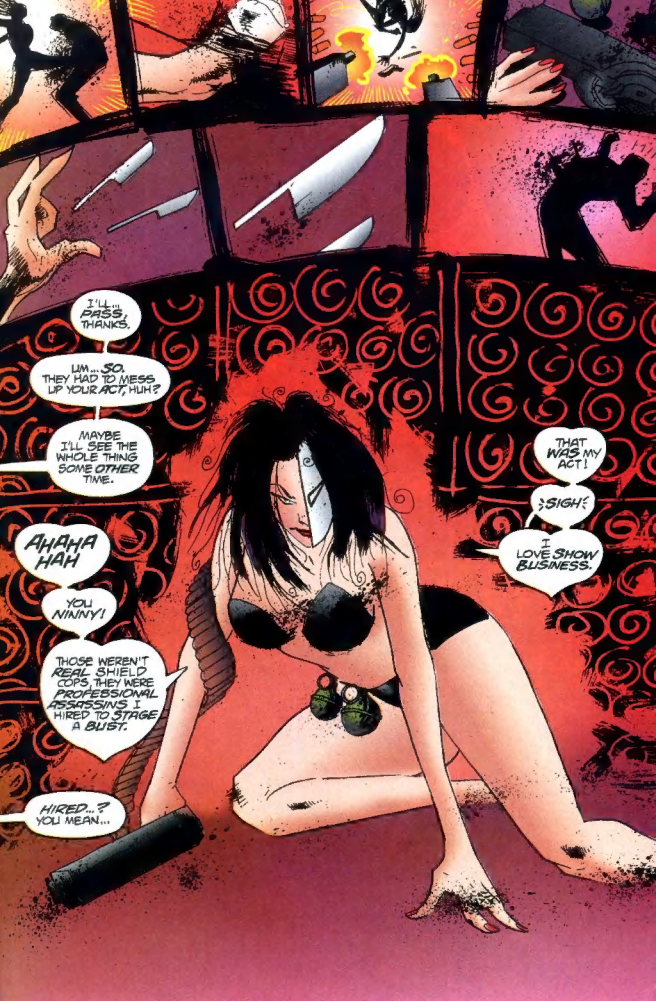

SO HARD... SO SMOOTH... SO BIG.
OOOHHH... THAT'S A REAL PIECE OF MACHINERY YOU HAVE THERE.
BIG ENOUGH TO BLOW YOUR HEAD CLEAN OFF, BABY.
She shrugged then, quickly, casually--
-- blending that motion into a snap of her head that whipped the blade between her teeth through the air --
THUK!
GHULK!
-- and into his throat.
And then, she stopped toying with them...
SON OF A GLI-LIRK!
I'M HIT! I'M HIARUG!
1
2
3
For my part, I was still trying to figure out how I ended up in an underground cabaret called "Killer Babes" --
-- watching their star attraction proves there's still truth in advertising.
THRAKAKAKA

YOU DANCE DIVINELY.
AND I'LL BET YOU NEVER HAD A LESSON.
DROP AND SPREAD 'EM, YOU SHOCKIN' WITCH!
OOH, THE FORCEFUL TYPE. MY FAVORITE.
WHOK
HOLD STILL, DARLING.
KRAK
THIS WON'T HURT A BIT.
UNGHK

;SNIFF;
;SNIFF;
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TREAT A LADY?
DIDN'T YOUR MOTHER TEACH YOU NOT TO HIT GIRLS?
As acts go, it was a four-star tearjerker. But she was playing to the wrong audience.
Shield doesn't hire on the basis of gallantry.
And then, she shed her mask.
MATILDA?
I'...I'M SORRY... I...
...THOUGHT YOU WERE--
This was a private show, meant for other eyes than mine.
What she laid bare in doing so, I couldn't see.
HEY! WHAT'S WITH YOU, SASMOR?
DRILL HER, ALREADY!
BUT...

I CAN'T HURT HER...
NOT AGAIN...
Poor slob. One look at her --
-- and he was a dead man.
THWUK
HAK
NEXT?
As she turned her face to the other one, the last survivor, I saw him flinch and go pale.
NO! NO!
NOT YOU!

THUK THUK
GET AWAY! DON'T TOUCH ME!
He should've known better. Whatever it was he saw --
AA
-- It was something he couldn't run away from.
WHAT WAS IT?
WHAT DID HE SEE THAT SCARED HIM SO BADLY?
FOR SOME OF THEM, THE WORST SIGHT IN THE WORLD WOULD BE THE DEEPEST SECRET THEY KEEP FROM THEMSELVES.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOURS IS?
I COULD SHOW YOU.
ALL IT TAKES IS A PEEK.
PEOPLE LIE, MR. ADAMS ESPECIALLY TO THEMSELVES.
THEIR HEART'S DESIRE.


I'LL... PASS, THANKS.
UM... SO, THEY HAD TO MESS UP YOUR ACT, HUH?
MAYBE I'LL SEE THE WHOLE THING SOME OTHER TIME.
AHAHA HAH
YOU NINNY!
THOSE WEREN'T REAL SHIELD COPS, THEY WERE PROFESSIONAL ASSASSINS I HIRED TO STAGE A BUST.
HIRED...? YOU MEAN...
THAT WAS MY ACT!
;SIGH;
I LOVE SHOW BUSINESS.